



Flathead Conservation District
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901
Phone: 406-752-4220 Fax: 406-752-4077
Web site: www.flatheadcd.org

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE: Vice Chairman, Pete Woll, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present: Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Dean Sirucek, Supervisor; John Ellis, Supervisor; Mark Siderius, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor being a quorum of the Board.

Board members not in attendance: Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman. Camisha Sawtelle, Secretary/Treasurer. Absences are excused.

Also in attendance were: Lori Curtis, Associate Supervisor; Valerie Kurth and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Sarah Bowman, Big Sky Watershed Corps & FCD; Angel Rosario, NRCS; Elena Evans, MACD; Olin Erickson & Amy Craig; Patrick Sullivan.

MINUTES: Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2016, 310-Stream Permit meeting as presented.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Copy of Floodplain permit for DNRC & City of Kalispell on Ashley Creek.
 2. FWP 2016 Annual Fishing newsletter
 3. Notice: Clark Fork Task Force *Re-visioning* meeting, April 15, 2016, 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., Room 207, University Center, University of Montana.
 4. April 2016 issue of McCone CD newsletter *Conservation News*
 5. Notice: DNRC has an Overview display of statewide activities available for CD use, and the Area display is being worked on.
 6. March 2016 issue of Custer County CD newsletter *Conservation Update*
 7. Job Announcement: Sheridan County CD in Plentywood is currently advertising for the position of Administrator. Contact 406-765-1801, ext. 101.
 8. Notice: Tally Lake Ranger District will hold a collaborative meeting regarding the Whitefish Municipal Watershed Fuels Reduction Project, Tuesday, Mar 29, 5:30-7:00 P.M., Whitefish City Hall, council chambers, 1005 Baker Avenue in Whitefish. Contact 406-758-5204.
 9. McCone CD is hosting a Quickbooks training, Thursday, May 12, McCone County Fairgrounds.
 10. DNRC 223, Mini-Education, and District Development grant applications are due April 26, 2016. Contact Linda Brander, DNRC, 406-444-0520.
 11. March 17, 2016 issue of SWCDM *The Montana Conservationist*
 12. Information from DNRC titled *Effects of Verbenone and other repellents on*
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- protecting ponderosa and lodgepole pine from MPB cause mortality.*
13. Notice: Area III Supervisor Summit registration forms are due April 1st, for the April 6, 2016 meeting. Contact Cascade CD 406-727-3603, ext. 125.
 14. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has openings on the Western Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC). Applications are due May 2, 2016. Contact 406-553-7617

FINANCIAL: The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$254.90
2. MACD \$14,000.00
3. MontanaSky Networks \$20.00
4. SWCDM \$25.00
5. Unemployment Insurance Division \$83.37

Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the bills as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Patrick Sullivan reported he had done emergency work (FL2016019E) on Swift Creek, and wanted someone to come and view the site before equipment was moved. John Ellis viewed the site and showed the photos he had taken. The board stated Patrick had done what was needed for the emergency work, so the equipment could be moved out. *Note: The emergency notice will be on the April 310-meeting agenda to schedule an on-site, then the board will make a determination at the May 310-meeting.*

310's

WANGERIN, FL2016003, Flathead River, dock: Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion “to approve the application with modifications per Pete Woll’s and Kenny Breidinger’s team member reports. Removal of the old dock and woody debris by the riprap are approved. Replacement of the existing dock with a new one is approved as described in the application. The 15-day waiting period is waived. The portion of the project pertaining to the retaining wall and bank stabilization will not be permitted at this time.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

COST-SHARE CONTRACT MODIFICATION: Olin Erickson & Amy Craig presented a modification request for their cost-share contract. Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the modified cost-share for Olin Erickson and Amy Craig for a total up to \$3037.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



WATERSHED RESTORATION PLANNING: Sarah Bowman provided a quarterly update on the Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) progress. Sarah gave an overview of drafted sections, reported on items in progress and stakeholder input, noted upcoming meetings and second quarter priorities, supplied the board with a WRP development timeline, and reviewed the nine EPA elements of a WRP. Discussion held.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT LETTER DRAFT: Valerie Kurth provided a draft letter to the board for review. Discussion held. The letter will be updated and sent out.

NW MT FAIR BOOTH APPLICATION & AGREEMENT: Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the 2016 Fair booth agreement in the amount of \$340.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FAMILY FORESTRY EXPO: Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve \$6000 for Family Forestry Expo.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the Resolution to Transfer funds from Fund 7201 to CIP Fund 7235 in the amount of \$5000.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

INTERNET SERVICE PAYMENTS: Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve staff to change the internet payment from check to paying online.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EQUIPMENT DISPOSAL REQUEST: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the equipment disposal request.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET: The February End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Mark Sideirus made a motion “to approve the February 2016 End of Month Report.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS: Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion “to approve \$1,000.00 for each of the 12 scholarship applicants.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried with one against.

INVESTMENT OF FUNDS: Discussion held. John Ellis will bring further information to the April business meeting.

NEW FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS: Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to support Dean Sirucek’s comments regarding the draft floodplain regulations as he is the Flathead CD Planning Board representative.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried with one against.



REPORTS

NRCS REPORT: Angél Rosario, NRCS, reported:

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)

- Follow up visits and certifications
- 12 Applications for 2016 Funding. (\$350,000)

WRE (Wetland Reserve Easement)

- Lost Trail Compatible Use Permit Application

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

- New Sign up – 3 Applications

Other

- Forest Landowners Seminar
- Building Lease Renewal
- Snow Report

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST REPORT: Valerie Kurth reported:

Cost-Share Program: I updated the website with the 2016 information and application form. I am contacting participants in the current cycle to make sure they are on track to complete their contract. Landowner interest in 2016-17 application cycle has been limited so far.

District Office and Outreach

1. I presented potential personnel policy revisions to the personnel committee at our meeting on 3/15/16, and I used their input to develop a final draft of recommended revisions. The committee will meet again on 4/7/16 to finalize the recommendations and review the job descriptions. I watched the DNRC webinar about human resources and recruitment and hiring practices on 3/23/16.
2. I drafted a general informational letter to landowners regarding livestock management and the cost-share program.
3. I made several updates to the district website, including the camp sponsorship page, education grant page, and the listing of past meeting minutes.
4. I met with Holly McKenzie to discuss possible collaborations for the Project Learning Tree educator workshop.
5. The March advertisements were for the cost-share program and 310-permits.
6. Ginger Kauffman and I organized the materials (posters, brochures, books) in the back room so they are easier to find and distribute.
7. I took the vehicle to the dealership to get the oil changed and change out the winter tires.
8. I judged projects at the Flathead County Science Fair on 3/10/16.

Family Forestry Expo: The Expo committee met on 3/1/16. Expo will be May 2-7, 2016.

Flood Awareness Day: All six stations are confirmed for Flood Awareness Day, which will be April 21st. The teacher will be bringing five chaperones to help guide the students.



Krause Creek: I met with one of the landowners, Don Garner, on 3/22/16, and we scouted the areas that will be included in the planning assessment. I spoke with personnel from DNRC, FWP, and U.S. Forest Service to explain the project objectives and ensure land access. The consultants are conducting their field work from March 28-30, and I will continue to assist them with land access.

Noxious Weed Workshop: Ginger Kauffman and Sarah Bowman helped assemble an FCD display board and informational materials for the workshop. The events were well-attended (100 people the first week, 35 the second) and public feedback was positive. I drafted and mailed a thank you letter to Kima Caddell for helping with this year's Noxious Weed Workshop.

Seedling Program: We received one additional seedling order this month, bringing the total for this year to eleven orders. The seedlings will be delivered on April 22. Angel Rosario, Ginger Kauffman, and Sarah Bowman will help pick up and distribute the orders because I will be out of the office.

Sourcebook Curriculum Project: I helped Lori Curtis submit a 319 mini-grant application to support Phase V of the project, but we did not receive funding. We are continuing to reach out to teachers about testing the Educators' Guide, giving feedback, and attending the May workshop.

Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)/Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC):

1. Sarah Bowman and I held a local stakeholder meeting on 2/25/15. About twenty people attended from a variety of government agencies and non-profits. We presented our plans for Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) development and solicited input on priority areas and issues. There was a lot of interest in the WRP, and we received many suggestions for additional areas to consider. Sarah is making steady progress on our first quarter objectives.
2. I coordinated landowner access for sampling on 3/23/16 (Sarah assisted DEQ), and I sent the DEQ report from last summer's sampling to the landowners with a thank-you letter for their support.

FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION REPORT: Dean Sirucek reported the next meeting is scheduled for April 20th.

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD: Dean Sirucek reported the March 9th meeting included passage of a zoning change, and an open hearing on Lakeshore Regulations.



MACD REPORT: Elena Evans, MACD, thanked the FCD board and staff for all the representation and work they put into conservation efforts. Elena supplied an overview of MACD and SWCDM responsibilities, and gave updates on by-laws, financials, staffing, program changes, dues, resolutions and committees.

Discussion held regarding MACD dues amounts, dues structure, revenue information, and a central location for convention.

WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD: John Ellis reported the Marriot Hotel next to Whitefish Lake was turned down and a new subdivision was approved.

FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION (FRC): Mark Siderius reported FRC Chairman, Bob Storer, will be doing radio spots in the next several days to talk about the upcoming Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology presentations on April 5th at Flathead Lake Brewery in Bigfork and April 6th at FVCC, and to clarify that these presentations have nothing to do with the proposed water bottling plant in Creston.

Mark noted two meetings will be held on April 7th:

- Annual Flood Level meeting at the Flathead County Office of Emergency Services
- Flood Inundation Mapping meeting with James Ball, Army Corps of Engineers

HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL: Valerie Kurth reported that the last meeting included discussion on the Reservoir Dam Management plan, the Whitefish Face Working Group update, and funding options for the culvert replacement on Haskill Basin Road. In addition, Mike Koopal, of the Whitefish Lake Institute, presented the group with the Whitefish Area Water Resources report.

CLARK FORK TASK FORCE: Verdell Jackson reported a meeting is scheduled for April 15th.

SOURCEBOOK CURRICULUM PROJECT: Lori Curtis reported a grant was applied for and a teacher workshop will be held May 14th to finalize the curriculum guide.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF: None.

The next 310-Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11, 2016, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

ADJOURNMENT: Verdell Jackson made a motion “to adjourn.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 P.M.

Submitted By: Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

__4/11/2016__ Ronald Buentemeier ____Chairman____
(Date) (Signature) (Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)

